

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 20 and 69. Please add new Claims 76-81. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently amended) A battery for use in a hearing aid insertable into an ear canal, the battery being shaped to substantially conform to a longitudinal portion of the ear canal between an aperture and a first bend of the ear canal, the battery being generally cylindrical in shape having an outer diameter dimension which varies from D1 to D2 in a longitudinal direction along its length dimension L, D1 being less than D2, and wherein L is less than D1 or D2 and the battery fits in a housing in the hearing aid such that the diameter dimension extends traverse the ear canal, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 over a substantial portion of the battery along its length dimension L.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the battery includes at least one step going from D1 to D2.
4. (Original) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the hearing aid is disposable.
5. (Original) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the hearing aid is nondisposable.
6. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the hearing aid has an elliptical diametric cross-sectional shape.
7. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the battery is comprised of metal or plastic.

8. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 1, wherein an outside diameter dimension of the battery increases abruptly from a distal end of the hearing aid to a proximal end.

Claims 9.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method for forming a battery for use in a hearing aid insertable into an ear canal, comprising shaping the battery to substantially conform to a portion of the ear canal between an aperture of the ear canal and a first bend of the ear canal, the battery being generally cylindrical in shape having an outer diameter dimension which varies from D1 to D2 in a longitudinal direction along its length dimension L, D1 being less than D2, and wherein L is less than D1 or D2 and the battery fits in a housing in the hearing aid such that the diameter dimension extends traverse the ear canal, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 over a substantial portion of the battery along its length dimension L.

Claims 21.-68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently amended) A battery for use in a hearing aid insertable into an ear canal, the battery being shaped to substantially conform to a longitudinal portion of the ear canal between an aperture and a first bend of the ear canal, the battery being generally cylindrical in shape having an outer diameter dimension which varies from D1 to D2 in a longitudinal direction along its length dimension L, D1 being less than D2, and the battery fits in a housing in the hearing aid such that the diameter dimension extends traverse the ear canal, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 over a substantial portion of the battery along its length dimension L.
70. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 69, wherein the battery includes at least one step going from D1 to D2.
71. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 69, wherein the hearing aid is disposable.

72. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 69, wherein the hearing aid is nondisposable.
73. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 69, wherein the hearing aid has an elliptical diametric cross-sectional shape.
74. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 69, wherein the battery is comprised of metal or plastic.
75. (Previously presented) The battery of Claim 69, wherein an outside diameter dimension of the battery increases abruptly from a distal end of the hearing aid to a proximal end.
76. (New) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 over at least about one third of the battery along its length dimension L.
77. (New) The battery of Claim 1, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 over about one half of the battery along its length dimension L.
78. (New) The battery of Claim 20, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 over at least about one third of the battery along its length dimension L.
79. (New) The battery of Claim 20, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 over about one half of the battery along its length dimension L.
80. (New) The battery of Claim 69, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 over at least about one third of the battery along its length dimension L.
81. (New) The battery of Claim 69, wherein the outer diameter dimension of the battery is less than D2 about one half of the battery along its length dimension L.